

SENATE BILL 3448
By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54
and Title 55, relative to highway occupancy toll or
HOT lanes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new section:

§ 54-1-137.

(a) The general assembly finds and declares that the development, improvement and use of exclusive or preferential lanes on any highway of the interstate and defense highway system or a four-lane controlled-access highway which is a federal or state highway, including lanes that are presently designated as high occupancy vehicle or HOV lanes pursuant to § 55-8-188, should be undertaken in order to relieve traffic congestion and increase the efficiency of the highway system in the state.

(b) The department of transportation shall design and develop a plan for expanding qualifying HOV lanes to high occupancy toll or HOT lanes based upon existing and estimated future highway traffic lanes and traffic congestion levels which vary depending upon the time of day. The department shall report to the house and senate transportation committees on the status of its design and development no later than February 1, 2007.

(c) The department of transportation shall seek approval from the federal highway administration to implement HOT lanes where appropriate in qualifying HOV lanes.

(d) For purposes of this section, "high occupancy toll lane" or "HOT lane" means a designated lane which allows single occupancy vehicles to gain access to HOV lanes by paying a toll set by the department of transportation.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of transportation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.